

ted occasionally struggling to get up. On one occasion they nuzzled each other at the corners of the mouth, as dhole cubs do when begging for food.

The moment they got untied, the male moved away yelping. This again attracted the pack. Five dhole, two adults and three subadults surrounded the bitch. One of the adults smelt her genitals before moving away. But the subadults showed greater interest and smelt her all over and one licked her as she lay on the ground.

The male was not the biggest dog in the pack and it was not one of those which had shown interest in the females earlier. When the pairing took place the pack was all around thus disproving the popular theory that pairing dhole strike out on their own. In a well knit pack, breeding would appear to interest the whole pack and ceases to be the private affair of a pair.

The dhole bitch with an unmistakable growth on her chin promises to make identification of the pack simple and further observations interesting.

“CANOWIE”

E. R. C. DAVIDAR

COONOR-1,

NILGIRIS,

October 30, 1972.

## 2. ON THE DOMESTICATION OF THE OTTER BY FISHERMEN IN BANGLADESH

The use of cormorants for fishing is well known. Apparently, in certain areas of Bangladesh (Jessore District), certain tribes of fishermen have an age-old tradition of domesticating otters for catching fish. This note is based on the enquiries made by the author during two visits to Bangladesh in 1972. As trained animals may be sold at a price of Rs. 800/- or more the advantages in fishing with them must be quite considerable.

The trained otters begin to bark at about 4 a.m. which is the fishermen's time for fishing.

The fishermen carry the otters with them in their boats to the fishing grounds. Once the nets are set in the water, the otters are released and they herd the fish into the net. The otters also catch large fishes sometimes weighing more than the otter. These big fish the otters bring to the boat, for the fishermen to collect. Small fish are consumed by the otters during the hunt.

J/146, PAHARPUR ROAD,  
GARDEN REACH,  
CALCUTTA - 24,

R. N. BISWAS

January 29, 1973.

### 3. A NOTE ON THE BIRTH OF A MALAYAN GIANT SQUIRREL (*RATUFA BICOLOR*) IN CAPTIVITY

A female Malayan Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa bicolor*), living with a male of the same species since 17 June, 1971 at Nandankanan Biological Park, Orissa gave birth to a female young on 15 July 1972 in one of the wooden boxes kept inside the squirrel cage.

At birth the young weighed 77 gm and measured 29.5 cm including the 12.5 cm long tail. The upper parts of the body coat were black whereas the under parts were light brown. The eyes were closed at birth and opened on the 22nd day (5 Aug. '72). At the age of two weeks the young was fully haired and the brown colour of the underparts gradually turned to white. The mother used to collect leaves and small branches from a plant inside the cage and keep inside the wooden box probably to use as bedding material or to conceal the baby. The mother carried the young by her teeth till the young was 8 weeks old while she jumped from one box to another. The baby was lifted by holding a fold of skin at the back with the teeth, or lifted the young by holding the base of one of the hind limbs. At times the young one used to make the typical giant squirrel call, immediately drawing the attention of the mother. The young was once seen taking banana for the first time at the age of five weeks and was able to come out and get into the wooden box kept at a height of about 90 cm from the ground on a wooden post at the age of eight weeks. It measured 59 cm from nose tip to tip of tail and weighed 445 gm at the age of two months.

NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,  
P.O. BARANG, CUTTACK DT.

L. N. ACHARJYO

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION OFFICER,  
ORISSA, OLD SECRETARIATE BUILDINGS,  
CUTTACK - 1,

R. MISRA

November 28, 1972.

### 4. A WHITE INDIAN GERBIL, *TATERA INDICA INDICA* HARDWICKE

A pregnant female Indian Gerbil, collected from natural pastures in Jodhpur, delivered a litter of four in the laboratory. One of the offsprings, a female, was much paler than the rest. When pelage developed, it bore pure white hair over the entire body including the tassel at the tip of the tail, the eyelashes and hair on the plantar sur-